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**Letter dated 21 August 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

On instructions from my Government, I am transmitting to you herewith a copy of a note of protest delivered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anwar Othman **Al Barout**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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## Annex to the letter dated 21 August 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We should like to make reference to the fact that official Iranian television recently reported that the Iranian authorities had established a maritime rescue office and an office for the registration of ships and sailors on the island of Abu Musa, which belongs to the United Arab Emirates.

The Government of the United Arab Emirates strongly protests this illegal action and considers it a blatant violation of the Memorandum of Understanding, concluded in November 1971, on arrangements concerning legal, administrative and sovereign matters connected with the island. It should also like to express its profound regret, because such actions do not serve to improve bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In that connection, the Ministry should like emphasize that the Memorandum is still in force and that its provisions govern and regulate the presence of Iranian forces on Abu Musa. The illegal actions and measures undertaken by Iran on the island violate the terms of the Memorandum and are an attempt to change the island's legal status. The Ministry should also like to state that the Memorandum neither grants the Islamic Republic of Iran sovereignty over the island, or any part thereof, nor authorizes it to undertake any security measures on the island. Nonetheless, ever since 1980, the Islamic Republic of Iran has persistently and continuously violated the Memorandum by undertaking measures and steps that are clearly aimed at imposing its sovereignty over the island of Abu Musa, which is something that contradicts, in form and in substance, the fundamental principles and the spirit of the Memorandum.

Anxious to strengthen friendly and fraternal relations between our countries, the United Arab Emirates calls upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to refrain from undertaking any action on the island that contravenes the Memorandum. It further calls upon Iran to rescind any measures already taken and remove any facilities established on the island, inasmuch as such actions and facilities constitute a blatant violation of the Memorandum.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates takes this opportunity to convey to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran the assurances of its highest consideration.